AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a frame of data having a predetermined number of time slots, each time slot being adjacent another time slot;

receiving a plurality of data symbols in each respective time slot; ~~and~~

receiving a primary, a secondary and a tertiary synchronization code in each said predetermined number of time slots;

determining if one of N distinct code words or sequences is present in the tertiary synchronization code;

if one of N distinct code words or sequences is present in the tertiary synchronization code, synchronize the frame of data using tertiary synchronization code and detect a code word transmitted on the secondary synchronization code;

if one of N distinct code words or sequences is not present in the tertiary synchronization code, synchronize the frame of data and identify code group using secondary synchronization code ~~each of said primary, secondary and tertiary synchronization codes being independently generated~~.

2. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the secondary and the tertiary synchronization codes identify a subset of codes.

3. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 2, wherein the secondary and tertiary synchronization codes are formed from a predetermined order of synchronization code elements, the predetermined order corresponding to the subset of codes.

4. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the secondary and tertiary synchronization codes are formed from a predetermined order of common synchronization code elements.

5. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a mobile receiver identifies a first time slot of the frame by the tertiary synchronization code.

6-24. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein N is an integer.

26. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein N has a maximum value of 4.

27. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein N is any positive integer that does not exceed the combinations of the comma free alphabet.

28. (New) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a frame of data having a predetermined number of time slots, each time slot being adjacent another time slot;

receiving a plurality of data symbols in each respective time slot;

receiving a primary, a secondary and a tertiary synchronization code in each said predetermined number of time slots;

identifying the primary synchronization code;

searching for presence of a known code word in the tertiary synchronization code; and

synchronizing the frame of data and identifying code group using the secondary synchronization code if a known code word is not detected.

29. (New) A method as in claim 28, including the additional step of synchronizing the frame of data using tertiary synchronization code and detecting a code word transmitted on the secondary synchronization code if a known code word is detected.

30. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein the secondary and the tertiary synchronization codes identify a subset of codes.

31. (New) A method as in claim 30, wherein the secondary and tertiary synchronization codes are formed from a predetermined order of synchronization code elements, the predetermined order corresponding to the subset of codes.

32. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein the secondary and tertiary synchronization codes are formed from a predetermined order of common synchronization code elements.

33. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein a mobile receiver identifies a first time slot of the frame by the tertiary synchronization code.

34. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein N is an integer.

35. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein N has a maximum value of 4.

36. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein N is any positive integer that does not exceed the combinations of the comma free alphabet.

37. (New) A method as in claim 28, wherein identifying the primary synchronization code identifies a specific base that transmitted the frame of data.

38. (New) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a frame of data having a predetermined number of time slots, each time slot being adjacent another time slot;

receiving a plurality of data symbols in each respective time slot;

receiving a primary, a secondary and a tertiary synchronization code in each said predetermined number of time slots;

identifying the primary synchronization code; and

using the tertiary synchronization code to provide both frame synchronization and partial synchronization code group identification.

39. (New) A method as in claim 38, wherein the secondary and the tertiary synchronization codes identify a subset of codes.